



Florida State Hispanic  
Chamber of Commerce

1983 PGA Boulevard, Suite 104  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33408  
(786) 221-2199 • (561) 694-0126 FAX

October 20, 2006

Chairman Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate  
Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Robert McDowell  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Federal Communications Commission  
The Portals  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WC Docket No. 06-74, Support for Approval of AT&T /Bellsouth Merger

Dear Commissioners;

The Florida State Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is the statewide organization recognized as the voice of the Hispanic business community in Florida. Our mission is to promote the economic advancement of the Florida Hispanic community, with a focus on economic and political empowerment, and public advocacy to improve the quality of life in the state of Florida. Our working theme for the past two years has been "ACCESS" ; providing access to education, capital and programs to a growing population that has for too long know, had little or no access to these important building blocks for success.

It with this in mind that the FSHCC is supportive of the merger proposal before you. The AT&T/Bellsouth merger proposal has taken great care to include the underserved populations of Florida by ensuring access to broadband service in rural and lower income areas. In addition, they propose to not only provide access but to ensure that the service is affordable to these population groups. As the fastest growing minority population in the state, the Hispanic community will play an important and vital role in our future economic vitality. Ensuring that affordable access to technology that will assist them in this endeavor is key to all of our success moving forward.

The Hispanic children in our state have struggled to keep pace with their counterparts in the classroom, due in no small part to both language and technology barriers. Few if any have affordable access to broadband service. The commitment by AT&T/Bellsouth is a step in the right direction to ensuring their future and we would recommend that you approve the proposed merger to allow that to begin to happen.

Sincerely,

Julio Fuentes  
President